



Nepal quake kills 1,400

Kathmandu turns valley of death; 45 dead in India, 13 in China; shocks felt in Bangladesh

AGENCIES

A powerful earthquake struck Nepal and sent tremors through northern India and China yesterday, killing more than 1,400 people, and touching off a deadly avalanche on Mount Everest.

There were reports of devastation in outlying, isolated mountainous areas after the midday quake of magnitude 7.8, Nepal's worst in 81 years, centred 80 km east of the second city, Pokhara.

As fears grew of a humanitarian disaster in the impoverished Himalayan nation of 28 million, an overwhelmed government appealed for foreign help. India was first to respond by sending in military aircraft with medical equipment and relief teams.

Offers of help also poured in from governments around the world, with the United States and the European Union announcing they were sending in disaster response teams.

In Europe, Britain, Germany, Norway and Spain also pledged support and assistance.

A police spokesman said the death toll in Nepal alone had reached 1,341, about half of them in the Kathmandu Valley. A further 45 fatalities were reported in northern India and 13 in Chinese Tibet.

"Deaths have been reported from all regions except the far west. All our security personnel have been deployed to rescue and assist those in need," police spokesman Kamal Singh Bam told AFP.

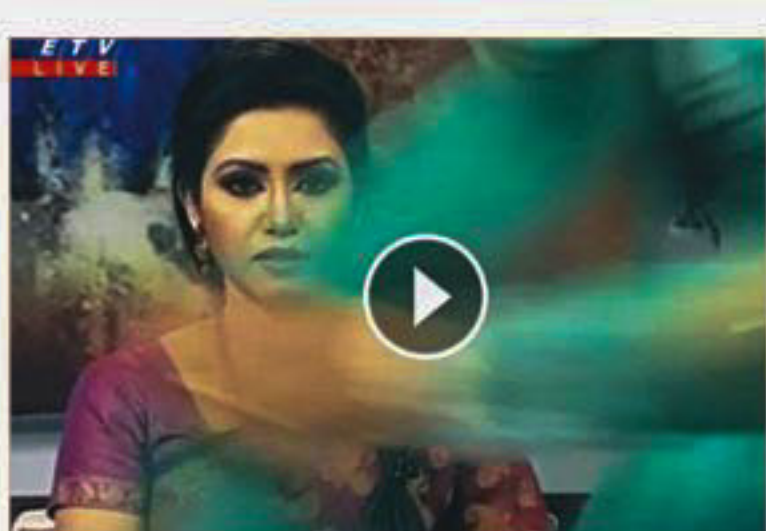
An Indian army mountaineering team found 18 bodies on Mount Everest, where an avalanche unleashed by the earthquake swept through the base camp. More than 1,000 climbers had gathered there at the start of the climbing season, reports Reuters.

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Nepalese rescuers and onlookers gather at the 19th century Dharahara Tower in Kathmandu which collapsed after the earthquake yesterday. Two devastated neighbourhoods, left, in the Nepalese capital. PHOTO: AFP/REUTERS



Quake rattles live TV show

STAR REPORT

Two live TV shows – one in Bangladesh and the other in India – caught the moment of panic as participants rushed out of the set when aftershocks jolted the capital twice early afternoon yesterday.

Video footage of a live program on Ekushey TV captured how the tremor left the host and her guest, singer Beauty, panic-stricken.

As the nervous presenter was trying in vain to hold her composure with the set shaking, Beauty said, "I'm feeling very scared".

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Shocks spark panic

Woman killed in wall collapse; more than 200 hurt; cracks in buildings

STAR REPORT

People across Bangladesh got panicked by multiple foreshocks and aftershocks of the powerful earthquake which jolted Nepal and some parts of India and China yesterday.

Morsheda Begum died in Dupchanchia of Bogra when a wall collapsed on her.

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Panicked people get out of The Westin hotel in Gulshan-2 yesterday following the earthquake. PHOTO: STAR

Bangladeshis in Nepal safe

Says ambassador in Kathmandu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

No Bangladeshi nationals visiting or staying in Nepal have been reported to be injured in yesterday's major earthquake, says a press release signed by Nripendra Chandra Debnath, director (media) of external publicity wing of the foreign ministry.

The Bangladesh ambassador to Nepal said all the Bangladeshis her office could reach till 9:00pm yesterday were safe.

"I have not heard about any casualties of Bangladeshis far. But the mobile phone networks are down in many areas, so we could not reach many of them," Ambassador Mashfee Binte Shams told

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BNP asks its agents not to leave centres

No tension in AL camp; campaign ends midnight today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With elections to the country's three key city corporations only a couple of days away, the BNP is asking its prospective polling agents not to leave polling booths under any coercion from their rival camp on the election day.

The party, which takes the city elections as a window to showcase the public support it claims to have, has been issuing the instructions in a series of workshops since last week to train the agents for the BNP-backed mayor aspirants in Dhaka North, Dhaka South and Chittagong city corporations, party insiders said.

According to the electoral laws, a contestant can appoint only one agent at a polling booth. The agents' main job is to



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TOP QUOTE

Bangladesh cricketers truly played like Bengal Tigers

PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA AT A RECEPTION IN HONOUR OF BANGLADESH CRICKET TEAM AT GONO BHABAN



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